

# **ST. MARY IN THE MARSH PARISH COUNCIL**

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2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2012

Mr. William Morrison  
Review Officer  
The Local Government Boundary Commission  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Layden House  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
London EC1M 5LG

Dear Mr. Morrison,

## **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SHEPWAY**

Thank you for your letter dated 23 October, which was considered at the parish council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2012.

The parish council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposal for a council size of 30 members for Shepway District Council, and I have been asked to forward their comments to you.

The size of 30 was considered and the following issues raised:

30 members would suggest 3000 electorates per member. This was considered too many for one member to be able to facilitate.

This could result in a member-role becoming too demanding, therefore reducing the number of persons who could commit to the volunteer post.

This raised other issues that if a member role was that demanding, this could lead to the possibility of the role becoming a salaried post and subsequently lead to an increase to the precept, long-term.

Any person with family, domestic, or professional responsibilities would be unable to undertake such a role, as it would be too demanding.

This situation would eliminate a wide number of persons with true community spirit being attracted to the role.

For this reason, the parish council's view is that the size of 30 is under-representative. A size of 38+ would be considered more appropriate.

I hope the above is useful and that you will be able to give due consideration to our concerns.

Yours sincerely,

*Gillian H Smith*

Gillian H. Smith  
Parish Clerk